

F-3-94
Bethel School
Lewistown vicinity
Private

Ca. 1835

The Bethel School is a one-story stone schoolhouse built prior to 1838. It resembles the Rocky Springs School (F-3-95), which is dated about 1835-1839. The Bethel School has a concrete block addition built after 1938 which somewhat alters its integrity. The school was known as Ramsburg's Schoolhouse prior to 1838 when it also served as a church for the Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran congregations which built the adjacent Bethel Union Chapel (F-3-90) in that year. The school closed about 1930. The Bethel School is a good representative of the early 19th century stone school in Frederick County.

F-3-94
Bethel School
Lewistown
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Religion
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Education/school/schoolhouse

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethel School; Ramsburg's Schoolhouse; Primary School No. 27; Public School No. 1

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9664 Opossumtown Pike ☐ not for publicationcity, town Lewistown ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

street & number 9664 Opossumtown Pike telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code Md. 21701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 412

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 445

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-3-94

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Bethel School is a one-story stone school house built about 1835 on the east side of Bethel Road just south of the intersection of Opossumtown Pike, near Lewistown, Frederick County, Maryland. The building is currently in use as a secondary structure to the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (F-3-90), which is located just north of the former school with the church cemetery between the two structures. The school's entrance is on the east gable end facing away from Bethel Road and a modern concrete block addition is on the north elevation. The date of the building was estimated from its architecture and materials and the Williams & McKinsey History of Frederick County (1910).

The school building is generally rectangular in form with random fieldstone walls with the single entrance on the east gable end. The door has a four-light glazed upper section and a three-panel base. A three-light transom is above the door. On the south elevation are two bays with 6/6 sash with plain wood lintels and sills. The north elevation is covered by a shed roofed concrete block addition. The west gable end has two bays with the same 6/6 sash as on the south elevation. The gable roof is covered with standing seam metal and an interior end chimney rises above the west elevation. Although the interior was inaccessible for this survey, a tongue-and-groove wainscot below painted plaster walls is visible through the windows.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-3-94

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1800-1899 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bethel School is a good representative of an early 19th century stone schoolhouse in Frederick County. It was built prior to 1838 and was known as Ramsburg's Schoolhouse after a nearby landowner, Dennis Ramsburg, who sold the land and the building to the County School Commissioners in 1860. At about that date, it was known as Primary School No. 27, as shown on the 1858 and 1873 maps. Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County of 1910 refers to Ramsburg's Schoolhouse being used for services by Reformed and Lutheran circuit pastors from Frederick prior to the building of Bethel Union Chapel (F-3-90) in 1838. In its simple, functional form and proportions, the Bethel School resembles the Rocky Springs School (F-3-95), which bears a date in its stone walls of 1835, although land records indicate the date was 1839. The Bethel School was closed about 1930 and sold to a private buyer in 1932 who in turn sold the property to the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1938. The subsequent concrete block addition, which obscured the original window openings, has somewhat lowered its integrity level as compared to the Rocky Springs School, which also has an addition on its rear elevation. However, the Bethel School's early date, good condition, and generally unaltered setting are important factors which balance against the incompatible addition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-3-94

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County
Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted
Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, 473.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acreQuadrangle name Catoctin Furnace, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 1 acre centered on the stone building near the brick Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church on Tax Map 48, Parcel marked with a cross.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date October 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MAILED 10/10/92
100 COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021
514-7600

LIBER/FOLIO

GRANTEE

645/214 1 0/18

412 / 445
22 Jun 38

Trustees of Bethel
Evangelical Luth
Church

Wilhelmina Clem. et al

Bethel Public
School Property

382/242
14 Mar 32

On *Chelmona Clem*
etal

Board of Education
of Fred. Co.

- 1) 30 p. BGF 5/129, 13 Jan 1860
- 2) 5TH 267/550, 2 Nov 1869
- 3) 5TH 284/113, 19 May 08

1) BGF 5/12.9
13 Jan 1860

James S. Dietz,	6
Joshua Zimmerman,	
Philip Wachter,	
Trustees of Primary School	
Distr #27	

Dennis & Lydia Ramsbury lot, part of
"Rescuey or Stoncy
Hill" & "Shoemaker's
Chico"

#6

2) STH 267/550
2 Nov 1869

Board of School
Commissioners

John, Elizabeth + Henry
C. Starr

Public School #1
(formerly #27).

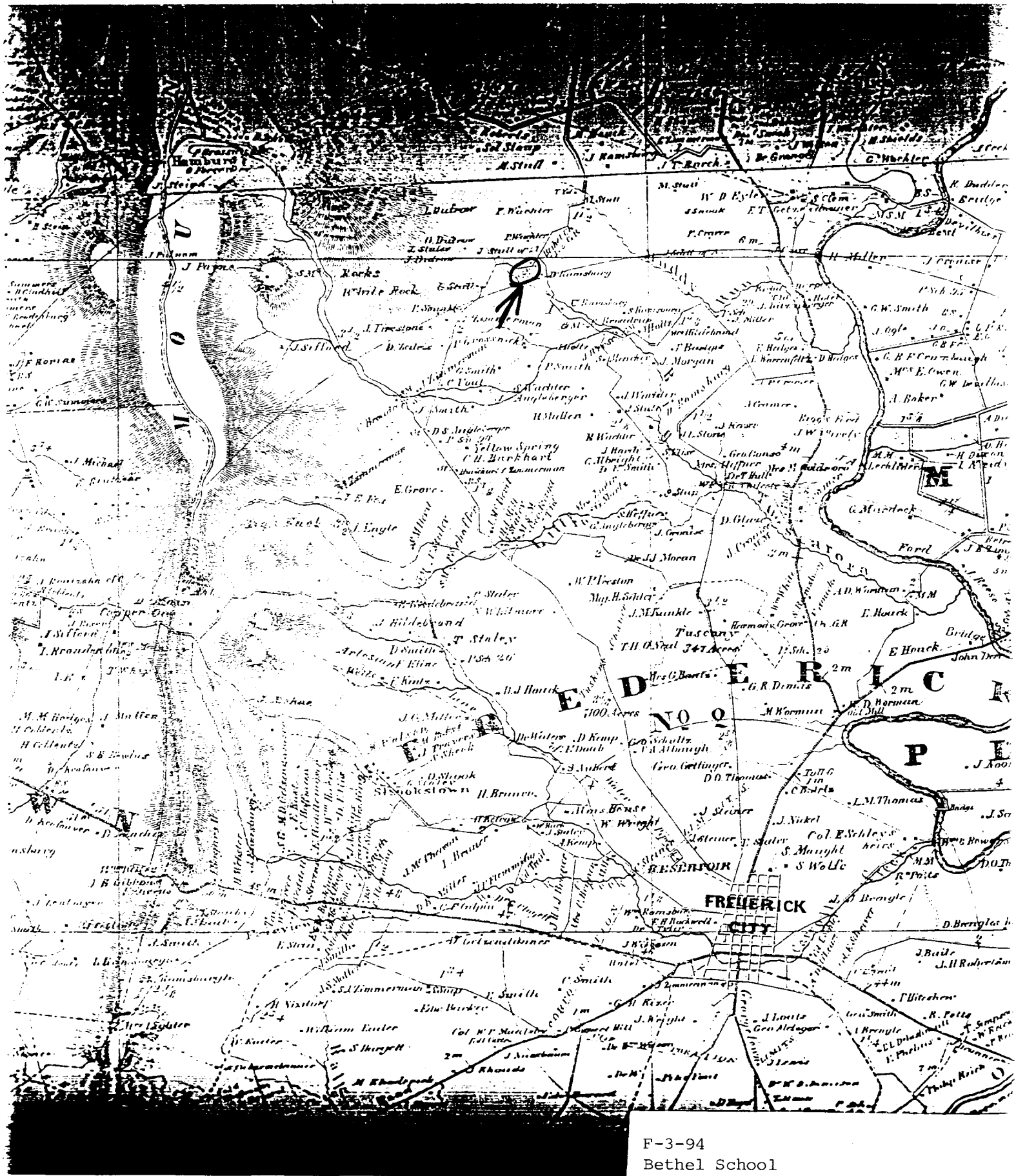
~~\$15~~

3) STH284/113
19 May 08

Board of School
Commissioners

Yoie L. & Richter P.
Zimmerman

F-3-94



F-3-94

Bethel School

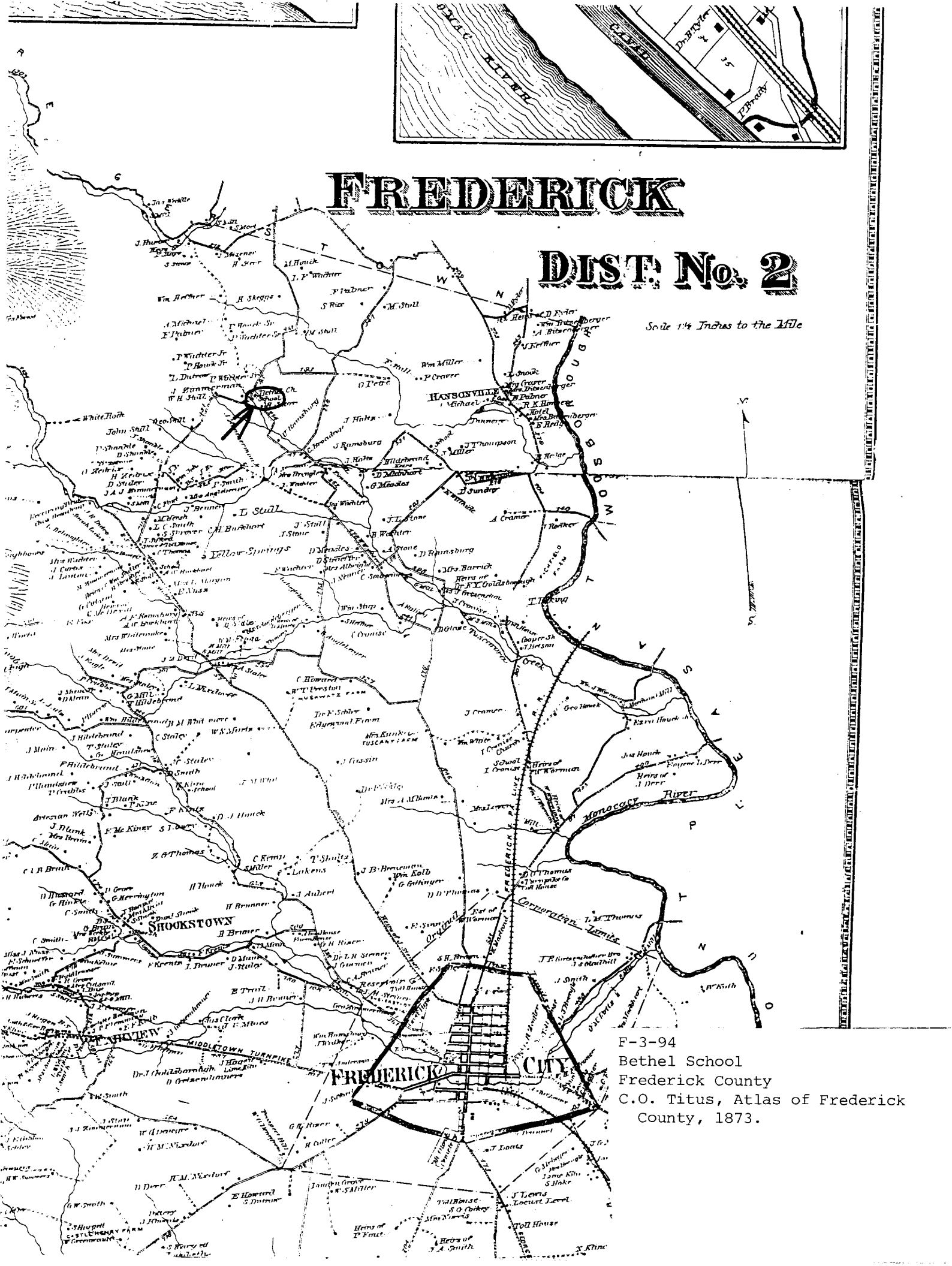
Frederick County

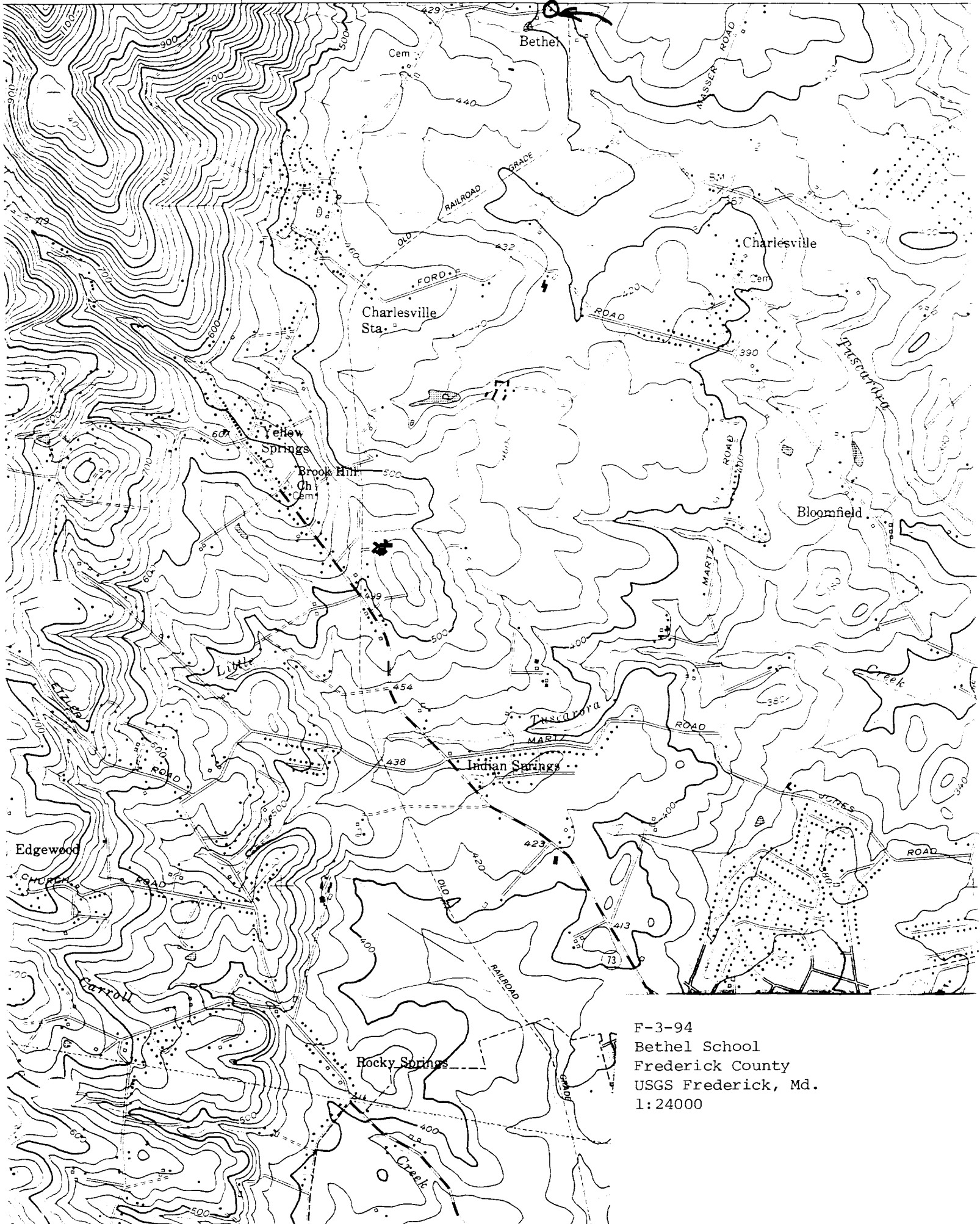
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
County, 1858.

FREDERICK

DIST. No. 2

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Mile





F-3-94
Bethel School
Frederick County
USGS Frederick, Md.
1:24000



F-3-94

Bethel School

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Southeast corner view

1/2



F-3-74

Bethel School

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

October 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation

2/2